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## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET/NOFORN

ACTION

How far

## MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Phil Odeen *PO*

SUBJECT: Services' Responses to NSDM 133  
and Army Manpower

*PO*

Deputy Secretary Rush has written a letter (Tab B) to:

- update you on Army reorganization plans for Europe which were recently approved for implementation,
- mention NSDM 133 actions of the other services,
- describe Army manpower problems.

Army Reorganization in Europe

The material discussed below draws on the Rush letter and additional information we were able to obtain on the current USAREUR reorganization. This effort is in response to NSDM 133 which directed DOD to look for ways to convert non-combat spaces to combat manpower.

The restructuring plan involves a total of about 8000 spaces and will take place over a 2-1/2 year period. The plan is summarized in the following table:

Army Response to NSDM 133

	<u>Removed</u>	<u>Added</u>
Replacement of HONEST JOHN and SERGEANT Missile Battalions by LANCE Battalions	-3775	+2538
Support and Headquarters Reduction	-4263	
New Combat Capability		+3341
Internal Management Improvements (e.g., Military Police, Drug Control, Volunteer Army Promotion)		+2159
	-8038	+8038

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The replacement of HONEST JOHN and SERGEANT missile systems with LANCE is an improvement that has been programmed for some time. It was known that the upgrading would permit fewer missiles and personnel to carry out the theater missile role. The inactivation of three divisional HONEST JOHN battalions was, however, accelerated. The spaces involved in the LANCE conversion are as follows:

	<u>Reduced</u>	<u>Added</u>
Five Divisional HONEST JOHN Battalions	-1215	
Two Corps SERGEANT Battalions	-1168	
Four Corps HONEST JOHN Battalions	-1392	
Six LANCE Battalions		<u>+2538</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-3775</b>	<b>+2538</b>

The streamlining of support and headquarters functions in order to provide new combat capability is directly responsive to NSDM 133. A detailed breakdown of these support cuts follows:

1) Inactivate three major headquarters* and reduce HQ USAREUR and 7th Army	-694
2) Reorganize supply and maintenance concept	-718
3) Reorganize aviation maintenance	-611
4) Implement depot complexing	-488
5) Inactivate/reorganize POL units	-170
6) Inactivate/reorganize medical units	-432
7) Reorganize 7th Signal Brigade	-636
8) Phasedown computer management	-108
9) Reorganize Combat Equipment Group	-318
10) Reorganize 66th Military Intelligence Group	<u>- 88</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>-4263</b>

About 61 percent of the spaces made available in this reorganization were used to improve conventional combat capabilities, as shown below:

1) Two tank battalions	+1142
2) Airborne battalion combat team	+1048
3) Conversion of 105 mm artillery battalion to a 155 mm battalion	+ 91

\* HQ USAREUR and 7th Army Combat Support Command; HQ Materiel Command; HQ Air Weather Service Command.



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4) Chaparral/Vulcan battalion	+ 640
5) Two attack helicopter companies	<u>+ 420</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+3341</b>

The combat augmentations were designed in accord with NSDM 133 and NATO agreed AD-70 (force improvement) goals. For example, U.S. armor/anti-armor capabilities are enhanced, a prime force improvement goal. Also an airborne battalion combat team is established to serve as the U.S. element of the ACE Mobile Land Force. It will be located in Italy so that it could also be available for use in Mediterranean and Middle East contingencies. These missions are currently assigned to divisions in the Seventh Army. The formation of the airborne unit will free all of the combat power of Seventh Army for use in the Center Region.

The remainder of the spaces made available, either through trimming headquarters and support or conversion to LANCE, are to be allocated to priority internal management tasks such as military police, drug control, promotion of the Volunteer Army, and support adjustments to accommodate the combat force improvements. The spaces are allocated as follows:

1) Military Police	+1148
2) Professional Army (e.g., drug control, IG's, Equal Employment)	+ 184
3) US Army Southern European Task Force Support for SASCOM and Airborne battalion combat team	+ 115
4) Southern European Task Force Signal Units	+ 93
5) Conventional Ammunition Group	<u>+ 619</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+2159</b>

Secretary Laird informed NATO at the Ma' Defense Planning Committee meeting of the conventional combat force improvements by the U.S. Army and the conversion of HONEST JOHN/SERGEANT to LANCE. Other aspects of the reorganization will probably not be discussed generally with the Allies since they are internal in nature.

#### Other NSDM 133 Activities

The Army has made a modest but respectable response to the guidance of NSDM 133; the Air Force and Navy have done nothing significant to date.

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The Air Force recently reduced 3rd, 16th, and 17th Air Force Headquarters personnel by a token 235 spaces in total. Some additional Air Force reductions may be made in connection with plans for the FRG to take over some aircraft control functions and radar warning sites in Germany. The manpower savings will be used to deploy a squadron of 30 OV-10 aircraft to Europe as airborne forward air controllers.

There are no Naval reductions in sight, largely due to the plans for Mediterranean homeporting. Only three hundred support spaces have been trimmed (from the Naval Security Group in Morocco). The Navy has, however, increased the number of ships, their operating days, the number of aircraft and their operating hours without increasing its European support base.

#### Army Manpower Problem

The Army forces worldwide are now understrength by about 35,000 trained personnel. This was due to the underestimate of response to an early release program established to meet Congressional manpower ceilings. Overall there are now four unmanned brigades within the thirteen division force structure. The Army expects to have only one unmanned brigade by December, and by the end of FY 73 they expect to have all thirteen divisions at authorized levels.

Current DOD estimates are that at the present time Army forces in Europe are short of authorized levels by about 13,000 (about 7 percent down) and division forces in the U.S. under strength by about 21,000 (about 13 percent down).

The Army has given European replacement requirements higher priority and expects to be within about 4 percent of authorized strength in Europe by the end of July.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A to Rush thanking him for this information.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET

Dear Ken:

The information on NSDM 133 follow-on actions and Army manpower problems is appreciated. The Army reorganization plan appears to be a realistic step toward improving our conventional capability in Europe. Actions which enable us to provide more combat capability within existing manpower levels are definitely responsive to the President's guidance.

The steps being taken by the other Services' response to NSDM 133 were, perhaps unavoidably, sketchy. I would like to have details of Air Force and Navy plans, as well as any additional Army steps, as soon as they are developed.

I also appreciate your providing me an update on the Army manpower difficulties. Please keep me informed on progress toward correcting the current shortfalls in Army manpower. The prompt corrective measures for European manpower levels are especially critical at this juncture, as I am sure you are well aware.

Warm regards,

Henry A. Kissinger

The Honorable Kenneth Rush  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C. 20301

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**SECRET****THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.****23 MAY 1972**

Dr. Henry Kissinger  
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Henry:

Our NSDM 133 follow-on actions continue; this letter will update the President and you on a recent Army organizational plan for Europe which I approved for implementation, as well as on-going NSDM 133 activities of the other Services. This letter also describes some current Army manpower problems.

During the next fiscal year, the Army will make some significant management adjustments to our ground force structure in Europe. These adjustments will shift about 3,400 manpower spaces from headquarters and support units to additional tank, air defense, and airborne units, thereby improving our conventional combat capability in Europe. No increase in our total European ground force authorization is required. I have enclosed a summary sheet which provides additional details on this improvement program called Project Fender.

As you know, the Army will be phasing out its Honest John and Sergeant nuclear artillery battalions in Europe during the next three years and replacing them with Lance units. To ease some stationing and base facility problems associated with Project Fender, we plan to accelerate the inactivation of some of the Honest John and Sergeant battalions. This will result in a temporary reduction in the number of launchers until the Lance replacements are in position. However, we plan no reduction of nuclear warheads during this period; all of the warheads will be available for delivery by the remaining launchers. After a careful study, we see no particular problems with these adjustments to the nuclear artillery replacement schedule from either a military or political point of view. There will be a total manpower savings of about 1,240 spaces during a three year period due to phase-in of Lance. Additionally, we are making some internal management adjustments in our ground forces support structure in Europe. The Army will reprogram manpower spaces released in these adjustments to satisfy essential support requirements.

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Secretary Laird plans to tell the Allies of this improvement to our conventional capability during the DPC meeting in Brussels on 24 May. He will point out that the President is carrying out his pledge to maintain and improve our force capabilities given a similar effort by our Allies. Secretary Rogers' staff has been fully consulted on all aspects of this reorganization. Helmut Schmidt and his staff will be fully briefed on the plan before the DPC but we will not make a public release on Project Fender until after the May Ministerial.

The Army has made a good start toward meeting both the President's objective outlined in NSDM 133 and the NATO's AD 70 goals. As you know, we recently reduced our numbered Air Force Headquarters. This has allowed us to consolidate some of our communications services, and we have made other changes to convert Air Force support personnel to combat roles. We are working with the FRG on plans for them to take over aircraft control and warning sites in Germany. We will use the manpower savings to develop a tactical air control system and to deploy a squadron of 30 OV-10 aircraft to Europe for airborne forward air controllers. The Navy has increased the number of ships, their operating days, the number of aircraft and their operating hours without increasing its support base in Europe. We will homeport additional ships, submarines, and a carrier task force in European waters. These moves require some increase in naval manpower in Europe, but over three hundred spaces are derived from better utilization of Navy forces already in Europe.

The Army's NSDM 133 actions will be implemented during FY 73. By this time, we also expect to have corrected a shortage we are now experiencing in Army manpower. Army forces worldwide are now understrength by about 35,000 trained people due principally to early release of first-term soldiers. The early release programs were implemented to reduce Army strength to the level imposed by Congress. However, the response to the programs was greater than anticipated and significant shortages developed in our CONUS and European ground forces. As a corrective action, the early release programs were stopped (with a few exceptions) on the 18th of May. We now expect that by the end of May Army forces in Europe will be about 13,000 under authorized levels (about 7% down), and division forces in the United States will be about 21,000 under strength (about 13% down). The Army has increased the European priority for replacements and plans to be within about 4% of authorized strength in Europe by the end of July. Overall, we now have four unmanned brigades within our thirteen division force structure. The Army reports that they will have only one brigade unmanned by December; by the end of FY 73 they project all 13 divisions at authorized levels. The Army's NSDM 133 actions described herein should have little or no effect on their current manpower problem or its resolution.

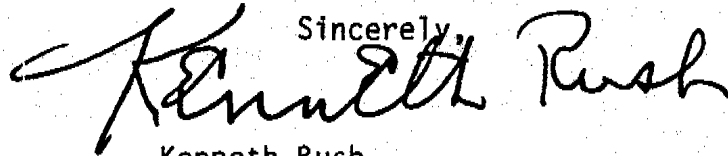
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We are encouraging all of the Services to redouble their efforts to develop more combat power within present force ceilings. We will keep the President and you informed of our continuing effort to improve our force structure and combat posture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth Rush". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kenneth Rush

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